



MAJOR INCIDENT REPORT

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CHIEF P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

INCIDENT:

Foothill IV Incident Update

TYPE OF INCIDENT:

Mud and Debris Flow

DISTRICT/LOCATION:

Acton, La Crescenta, La Canada Flintridge

DATE AND TIME OF UPDATE:

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

INJURIES/FATALITIES:

None

INVESTIGATION STATUS:

N/A

INCIDENT SUMMARY:

Update: On, Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at 8:30 a.m., the Foothill Incident Management Team was activated to monitor the La Canada Flintridge area and the impact of the predicted storms on at-risk areas resulting from the Station Fire.

This incident is being managed in unified command between L.A. County Fire, L.A. County Sheriff's Department, and L.A. County Department of Public Works. Cooperating agencies include the U.S. Forest Service, Cal-Trans, California Highway Patrol, and the American Red Cross. Cole Schaeffer Ambulance also assisted.

Due to anticipated heavy rains and flash flood warnings for burn areas, mandatory evacuation orders were issued for 540 homes in the communities of Acton, La Canada Flintridge, and La Crescenta; evacuations were completed by 12:00 p.m., with a 59 percent compliance rate. By 3:00 p.m., one engine strike team (consisting of five Type I-engine companies) and five crew strike teams (consisting of two camp crews and one superintendent) were dispatched and staged at Descanso Gardens for any necessary emergency operations. The team was very concerned about 14 debris basins in the area that were either full or near capacity. L.A. County Department of Public Works monitored the debris basins and maintained their functionality allowing them to drain normally, resulting in no significant runoff into the streets. The L.A. County Sheriff's Department assisted with the evacuation notifications, and evacuation centers were established at the Acton Community Center, in Acton, and at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Montrose.



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Road closures included everything north of 4100 Big Tujunga Canyon Road at Mount Gleason; the remaining areas of Big Tujunga Canyon Road were open to residents only, and roads were also closed in the evacuated communities.

Approximately two inches of rain fell during the peak impact of the storm in the afternoon. There were no injuries, incidents, or damage to report at this time.

All evacuations were lifted at 8:00 a.m. this morning. Road closures are currently at a "soft closure," allowing only neighborhood residents to return. Incident recovery information was distributed in unified fashion through the Coordinated Agency Recovery Effort (C.A.R.E.) website and field information officers from County Fire, Sheriff's, and Public Works. The Foothill Incident Management Team was demobilized this morning. County Fire will maintain an operational presence to assist evacuated residents as they return home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE AT (323) 881-2401